

Press Release

World Science Day for Peace and Development 2024

Islamabad, 12th November 2024 — To commemorate World Science Day for Peace and Development, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, hosted an event at the Pakistan Science Foundation on 12 November 2024 in Islamabad. The event aimed to raise awareness about the critical role of science in modern society and its impact on addressing contemporary global challenges.

Celebrated annually since 2001, World Science Day highlights the vital role science plays in society and fosters public engagement in discussions about key scientific issues. This year's theme, "*Why Science Matters - Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures*," underscores the significance of science in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future.

The 2024 celebration holds additional significance as it coincides with the launch of the *International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024-2033)*, recently declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Led by UNESCO, this decade-long initiative focuses on mobilizing the global scientific community to tackle complex challenges through interdisciplinary approaches. It encourages collaboration across diverse fields—from basic and applied sciences to social and human sciences, as well as emerging interdisciplinary domains. With an emphasis on resilience, equity, and environmental sustainability, the Decade supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a shared commitment to a safer, more prosperous world.

The event featured insightful remarks from Mr. Kar Hung Antony Tam, Officer-in-Charge of UNESCO Pakistan; Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Member Science, Pakistan Science Foundation; Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President, ECO Science Foundation; Prof. Dr. Aslam Baig, Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences; and Dr. Aneel Salman, OGDCL-IPRI Chair of Economic Security at IPRI, who delivered a keynote on the pivotal role of science and technology in achieving a sustainable future for Pakistan. During the event, Dr. M. Aslam Baig, Secretary General of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, highlighted the importance of scientific research in addressing societal challenges. The Officer Incharge of UNESCO Pakistan shared UNESCO's commitment to fostering scientific innovation and education for sustainable development. The President of ECOSF emphasized the critical role of science in economic growth and peacebuilding in the ECO region, while Prof. Dr. M. Akram Sheikh, a PSF Member of Science, underscored the need to inspire the younger generation through scientific engagement to secure a brighter, more equitable future.

Attendees included government officials, scientists, researchers, science communicators, and journalists who actively engage in the field of science communication.

As part of the day's activities, an interactive science show for students was conducted by the Pakistan Science Club at the Pakistan Science Foundation. The session focused on making science fun and accessible, aiming to ignite students' interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields.

The event was a reminder of science's transformative potential and underscored the importance of empowering future generations to contribute to a sustainable and resilient Pakistan.